

Old Smithsonian Institution Building
("The Castle")
Jefferson Drive, between 9th and 12th
Streets, SW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-141

HABS
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WASH,
520B-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDITIONAL
FOLIOS

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE District of Columbia		COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Old Smithsonian Institution Building			HABS NO. DC-141
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE "The Castle"			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Jefferson Drive, between 9th and 12th Streets, SW			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1847-1855		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) James Renwick, Jr.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) First building of the Smithsonian Institution and a foremost example of medieval revivalism.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Medieval Revival			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Seneca sandstone			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 447' x 160' at widest point; 5-part plan with central block, connecting hyphens, and end wings of various heights; gable roofs; 8 towers; west wing has apsidal end			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Towers have a variety of roof treatments and fenestration; crenelated parapet; corbeled cornice; tall round-arched windows with drip mouldings			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) West wing was originally library; east wing contained living quarters for secretary; central block had great exhibition hall downstairs and lecture hall upstairs.			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1865: upper floors of central block burned, repairs and alterations by Adolf Cluss, 1884: east wing and hyphen raised, Cluss and Schulze, architects 1968-1970: Building renovated, Chatelain, Samperton, and Nolan, architects			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Still in use by Smithsonian Institution			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Schultz, Nancy B. <u>Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974.</u> A National Historic Landmark A Category I District of Columbia Landmark			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS			DATE 8/4/83

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BUILDING

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BUILDING

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Data page 1 was previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 2.

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRIC IMAGES

The glass photogrammetric plates listed below are not reproducible except with special permission. However, reference prints and film copy negatives have been made from the plates indicated by an asterisk (*) and are included in the Library of Congress collection of formal HABS/HAER photographs.

- 15 5" x 7" glass plate diapositives (7 stereopairs plus one plate of one pair), and
- 16 5" x 7" glass plate negatives (8 stereopairs) produced by Perry E. Borchers of The Ohio State University in 1963.

One survey control contact print per plate; survey control information for each pair.

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-201L NE CORNER
 (Diapositive)
 (Plate missing)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-201R NE CORNER
 (Diapositive)

Left and right overlap: 90%

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BUILDING
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Data (Page 3)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-202L	NORTH FACADE (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-202R *	NORTH FACADE (Diapositive)
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-203L	NORTH FACADE, INCLINED (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-203R *	NORTH FACADE, INCLINED (Diapositive)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-204L *	NORTH FACADE, EAST END
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-204R	NORTH FACADE, EAST END
	Left and right overlap: 95%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-205L	NORTH FACADE, WEST END (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-205R *	NORTH FACADE, WEST END (Diapositive)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-206L *	NORTH FACADE, WEST END, OBLIQUE (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-206R	NORTH FACADE, WEST END, OBLIQUE (Diapositive)
	Left and right overlap: 90%

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Data (Page 4)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-207L WEST FACADE
 (Diapositive)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-207R * WEST FACADE
 (Diapositive)

Left and right overlap: 85%

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-208L * WEST FACADE, NORTH END
 (Negative)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-208R WEST FACADE, NORTH END
 (Negative)

Left and right overlap: 85%

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-209L * WEST FACADE, NORTH END, INCLINED
 (Negative)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-209R WEST FACADE, NORTH END, INCLINED
 (Negative)

Left and right overlap: 90%

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-210L * EAST FACADE
 (Negative)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-210R EAST FACADE
 (Negative)

Left and right overlap: 75%

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-211L * SE CORNER
 (Negative)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-211R SE CORNER
 (Negative)

Left and right overlap: 90%

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Data (Page 5)

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-212L *	SE CORNER, INCLINED (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-212R	SE CORNER, INCLINED (Negative)
Left and right overlap: 95%	
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-213L *	SOUTH FACADE, EAST END (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-213R	SOUTH FACADE, EAST END (Diapositive)
Left and right overlap: 85%	
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-214L	SOUTH FACADE, CENTER (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-214R *	SOUTH FACADE, CENTER (Diapositive)
Left and right overlap: 85%	
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-215L *	SOUTH FACADE, CENTER, INCLINED (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-215R	SOUTH FACADE, CENTER, INCLINED (Negative)
Left and right overlap: 85%	
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-216L	SOUTH FACADE, WEST END (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2626-216R	SOUTH FACADE, WEST END (Negative)
Left and right overlap: 70%	

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Photogrammetric images were incorporated into the HABS/HAER collections in the summers of 1985 and 1986. Inventories of the images were compiled and filed as data pages for each structure recorded. Since the glass photogrammetric plates are not reproducible except with special permission, a reference print and film copy negative were made from one plate of each stereopair and from the most informative plates in sequential sets. The reference prints and copy negatives were then incorporated into the formal HABS/HAER photograph collections.

The Photogrammetric Images Project was a cooperative endeavor between the HABS/HAER Division of the National Park Service and the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. The reference prints and film copy negatives of the original plates were made by the Library of Congress Photoduplication Service with funds provided by the Library of Congress Flat Film Preservation Fund. Additional reproductions were made by HABS/HAER. The project was supervised by HABS/HAER Architect John A. Burns, AIA, and completed by HABS Historians Jeanne C. Lawrence (University of London) in 1985 and Caroline R. Alderson (Columbia University) in 1986.

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